



Marais Viljoen High School



FOUNDED: 1961
 MOTTO: SCIENTIA EST VIRES
 (KNOWLEDGE IS STRENGTH)
 ADDRESS: C/O BODMIN ROAD AND
 CRADOCK STREET, ALBERANTE, ALBERTON
 WWW.MARAISVILJOEN.CO.ZA/MV



School History

Alberton, an industrial town some 20km south of Johannesburg, was proclaimed a municipality in 1939. It was founded when Jan Meyer bought 11ha from his stepfather for the farm Elandsfontein. Meyer was 13 at the time and became prosperous. After Jan's death, his brother Org sold part of the farm to General Alberts, the South African War general. Alberts wanted divided his land into plots. He also changed the name, claiming that Alberton was not named after him but after the Meyer family who had trekked from Prince Albert, over the Swartberg from Oudtshoorn. So, in a roundabout way, Alberton takes its name from Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria.

Hoërskool Marais Viljoen High School is a dual-medium school. It is also comparatively young, founded in 1961. Up to the end of 2003 it had had only three principals — Piet Myburgh, Phillip Fouché and Hannes le Roux. In 2004 it appointed Martie Heystek as acting head and in 2005 she became headmistress.

The school was opened and named after the member of parliament for Alberton, Marais Viljoen, who later became the state president.

Originally it was a technical and commercial school — Marais Viljoen Hoër Tegniese en Handelskool. It has since dropped the commercial side altogether and has broadened its academic scope. Since 1995 it has been Hoërskool Marais Viljoen High School, drawing on primary schools in Alberton and the southern suburbs of Johannesburg.





Rugby at Marais Viljoen

In 1991 Marais Viljoen won its first big trophy — the Director's Trophy for competition amongst schools — in what was then the Transvaal. In 2004 it won its second big trophy when it beat EG Jansen of Boksburg in the Final of the Super16 for Big Schools, a lively and creative match. En route they beat Waterkloof of Pretoria and Monument of Krugersdorp. They reached the finals of the Beeld Trophy at Under-14, Under-15 and Under-16 levels, losing to Affies, EG Jansen and Affies, respectively.

Apart from that they had success in 1996 when their Under-16 side came second in Transvaal while their First XV has won their league four times. In 2004, the school had six Craven Week players.

Marais Viljoen plays top schools in the old Transvaal — Monument, Nelspruit, Florida, Klerksdorp, EG Jansen, HTS Middelburg and Waterkloof amongst them. They also attend

Easter festivals and in March 2004 they went on tour to Argentina. In 2004/05 they attended the FNB KES Festival, and in 2006/07 represented at the FNB St John's Festival.

Three members of that side, who have just turned 21, are playing provincial rugby in 2007 — Marco Kotze and flank Derick Minnie for the Lions and hooker Frikkie de Jager for the Pumas. Eighth man Rian van der Merwe has played for the Lions and the Pumas.

The school fields 19 teams and Werner Janse van Rensburg and Andrew Nel have taken over from Oupa van der Merwe as coaches. Van der Merwe has since moved to arch rivals, Monument.

Two Marais Viljoen players have played for South African Schools — Ian de Ru in 1989 and Piet van Westing in 1992. Marais Viljoen's big rivals are Monument of Krugersdorp. They play them every year, usually at the beginning of June.